

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

March 2, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Paul Johnson
Commissioner Allen McAdoo
Commissioner Robert Peay
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Robert Stevens
Commissioner Brad Turner
Commissioner Trey Gooch, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess Alan Farley
Sonya Stephenson Robert Arnold
Becky Shelton

Chairman Gooch presided and called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. with all members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Turner moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

HUMAN RESOURCES BUDGET:

HR Director Sonya Stephenson reviewed her proposed 2015/16 budget with the Committee advising the biggest increase is for NeoGov software at approximately \$30,000 for the first year and \$21,000 annually thereafter for the life of the contract without regard to the number of employees. Ms. Stephenson advised her office is required to do background checks on all new employees as well as drug tests, handle FMLA and post positions. In the past unpaid interns were used from local universities but with the up turn in the economy interns are now getting paid and she has none at this time. The NeoGov software will allow for on-line applications and gives access to job descriptions, salaries and the pay plan. It also provides new hire paperwork and orientation on-line as well as sexual harassment training. The software eliminates all paper applications. HR will provide a kiosk for applicants to use if needed.

Ms. Stephenson's budget was approximately \$32,000 over the current budget so basically it was a continuation budget except for the new software. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to forward the Human Resources 2015/16 budget to the Budget Committee with an affirmative recommendation. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Commissioner Peay requested Ms. Stephenson have Brian Robertson from OIT at the Budget Committee when the budget is discussed for more information on the software.

ELECTION COMMISSION:

Alan Farley next addressed the Committee regarding a unique opportunity for the County to be on the leading edge in the State for elections while providing voting convenience and saving tax dollars. There is currently a proposal before the Legislature to provide Voting Centers. The precincts will change from 50 to 30 on election day but with technology any one can vote at any site and does not have to be their assigned location. The district lines will not change. The pilot program for Voting Centers will allow a few counties to go on and use the concept but the County has to amend into the bill and the County can opt out if desired. The cost to open a new voting precinct is \$27,000. The 30 voting centers will cover districts and communities. There will be initial mailing costs and an education

program but the County will break even the first year and start saving thereafter.

The County currently has six early voting stations and Mr. Farley advised he wanted to add an early voting site in the Highway 231/Barfield area.

Commissioner Peay advised the City of Murfreesboro has aligned its elections with the County so there will be a larger turn out for future elections and he wanted to make sure no one is turned away and wanted assurance there would be enough locations. Mr. Farley advised citizens would be able to vote at a site convenient to their location on election day like they are able to do in early voting. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Peay moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to petition the State to allow Rutherford County to participate in the pilot program for the Voting Centers. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Commissioner Peay asked Mr. Farley to have the map of the voting sites put on the County website or television channel. Mr. Farley advised he would when it passed and he may have information sent out in CUD or MTEMC bills as well.

HOUSE BILL 1262/SENATE BILL 1174:

Chairman Gooch advised House Bill 1262/Senate Bill 1174 had been filed and was unique to Rutherford County in that it proposed to take away the County's authority to run the Correctional Work Center and transfer it to the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Gooch advised this bill went straight to the General Assembly and by-passed all local stakeholders, the Work Center Board, Steering Committee, County Commission and Mayor. This is a local issue that should remain local and the Correctional Work Center is run well and has been accredited by the American Corrections Association. Chairman Gooch advised he was asking for a Resolution opposing House Bill 1262/Senate Bill 1174. Commissioner Stevens advised under current law authority over the Correctional Work Center cannot be changed unless the Mayor recommends the same and the Commission approves and he thought the mandate without Commission approval was wrong. Commissioner Turner advised the Committee recently met with the legislators and there was no mention of this action. Chairman Gooch advised every local stakeholder was bypassed and the bill went straight to the General Assembly. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve recommending a Resolution in opposition to House Bill 1262/Senate Bill 1174. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 78:

Chairman Gooch provided a copy of House Joint Resolution 78 proposed by Representative Mike Sparks which opposes State unfunded mandates advising Representative Sparks has asked for support on the record. Commissioner McAdoo advised the Commission normally does a Resolution every year opposing unfunded mandates anyway. Chairman Gooch advised the House Joint Resolution keeps the conversation going. Commissioner Turner advised he thought the Resolution needed more teeth in the bill with local representatives to lead the charge. Commissioner Peay advised he thought a cost analysis should be provided on any bill passed which would help the County as much as anything else and a cost association was not unreasonable to ask for. Commissioner McAdoo advised he wanted to forward the Resolution to the Commission and may get more input there. Following discussion,

"Commissioner McAdoo moved, seconded by Commissioner Peay, to forward House Joint Resolution 78 to the full Commission. This

motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Gooch declared the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

TREY GOOCH, Chairman